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Musket

Vol. XXX, No. 2 | Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. | Nov/Dec 1996

The "Flood of 1996" does not seem to faze the curious students walking by.

-photo by Jay Premack

Yeo Appeals District Court Dismissal of LEXNET Case

by Christine Chiou

On November 7, 1996, Douglas Yeo's appeal of the District Court's summary judgment decision went before a three-judge panel at the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Both sides of *Douglas E. Yeo v. Town of Lexington, et al.* delivered 15-minute summaries of their positions. Yeo was represented by John Spillane, backed by the Rutherford Institute. Partner Jason Berger and lawyer Adam P. Foreman of the Boston law firm Testa, Thibeault & Hurwitz represented the school on a pro bono basis.

The three judges questioned Spillane and Foreman about the state action argument. Spillane argued that the rejection of the ads constituted state action, and that the two publications were "limited public fora." Foreman countered that the students rejected the ad, not the school administration, and that the forums are now closed. "Any damage that occurs now is to the school community," said Foreman.

There are three possible outcomes of the appeal. First, the First Circuit Court may turn down Yeo's appeal. Yeo's only recourse would be an appeal at the United States Supreme Court. Second, the appellate court may grant his appeal. That court has the option of deciding on other issues introduced in the original lawsuit. Third, the court may grant Yeo's appeal, but it could send the case back to the United States District Court. The District Court could decide on the other issues. Says Foreman, "Yes, the process is very cyclical."

Because the *Musket* and the LHS Yearbook have tightened their ad policies, Yeo only seeks monetary damages of $10,000.

A decision from the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals may be expected sometime in 1997.

This suit originated in 1992, when condoms were made available to LHS students without parental permission. In April 1994, Yeo, founder of LEXNET (Lexington Parents Information Network), sued the Town of Lexington when the *Musket* and the Yearbook rejected his ad. The LEXNET ad stated, "We know you can do it! Abstinence: The Healthy Choice." Per unwritten policy, the *Musket* and the Yearbook refused to print political or advocacy ads.

In the April 1994 suit, Yeo charged that Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Young, former LHS principal David Wilson, *Musket* Advisor Sam Kafrissen, and LHS Yearbook Advisor Karen Mechem coerced the students into rejecting the LEXNET ad. He singled out Kafrissen as a "Svengali-like presence...who manipulated students and administrators according to his personal political agenda." Yeo believed that the Town of Lexington had violated his constitutional right to free speech when the two publications refused to print his ads.

In June 1994, United States District Judge Richard G. Stearns denied Yeo's request for an injunction to prevent distribution of the *Musket*'s graduation issue.

In May 1996, Judge Stearns approved the defendants' motion of summary judgment. Summary judgment argues that there is no legal basis to bring a civil case before a jury.

Stearns ruled that the publications' refusal to print the ad did not constitute state action because it appeared that it was the decision of the student editorial boards. "Whether [the students] should have decided the ad issue differently is not the point. The decision was theirs to make. Such is the power conferred on the First Amendment, even on the young," stated Stearns.

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Senate, Lanoue Pass Locker Room Bill

by Ami Karkar and Claire Cuno

On October 25, 1996, the Senate passed the Locker Room Bill submitted by Physical Education Teacher Laura Lasa. The bill limits the time students are allowed to be in the locker rooms. Principal Philip Lanoue approved the bill on November 4.

The Locker Room Bill states that "[s]tudents are allowed in the locker rooms only for...physical education class or an athletic practice/game." Students may also use their P. E. lockers before school and during passing times. Those who are found in the locker room at inappropriate times will be punished according to the number of previous offenses.

One of the bill's primary purposes is to decrease the number of locker room thefts. On average, there are about five reported thefts a day. Other thefts go unaccounted for. Bags are still left out, despite repeated warnings. A copy of the bill was distributed in homerooms.

The bill also states that "[l]ocker room theft is a huge problem." The physical education staff reports that thieves have found ways to break through the locks. Possessions are stolen not only from bags that are left out, but from locked lockers as well. Sophomore Heidi Manschreck replies, "At the point where you can't depend on the locks, some greater step needs to be taken."

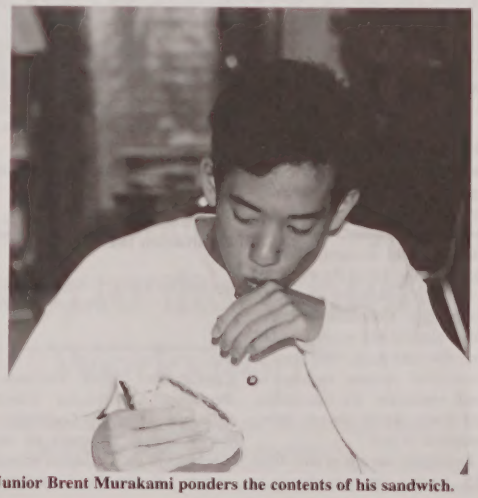
Under the new bill, the first offense entails a written and verbal warning, along with notification of parents and building administrators. Punishment for second offense will be two detentions and parental notification. On the third offense, there will be a one day suspension. A minimum of a two day suspension will be given for the fourth and subsequent offenses. Students caught with stolen property or in someone else's bag or locker will be reprimanded according to the guidelines in the Student/Faculty Handbook.

A major issue raised against the bill is that students will not be able to use their lockers in lieu of inconveniently located lockers, such as those in J-House. The gym teachers sympathize with these students but, as Lasa admits, "The risk for theft is too great, and the issues of safety and convenience cannot both be attained."

One freshman suggests, "Why can't we just lock the locker room?" Locking the locker room would just cause more trouble, as a trial several years ago demonstrated. "We just locked the latecomers out and the thieves inside," says Lasa. The Locker Room Bill gives the physical education staff more ground to enforce protection of students' possessions.

"At the point where you can't depend on the locks, some greater step needs to be taken."

-Sophomore Heidi Manschreck



Junior Brent Murakami ponders the contents of his sandwich.

-photo by Dan Myung

Policy Requires 75% Attendance in all Classes

by Carolyn Shank

The new Attendance Policy applies the English Department's attendance policy to all other subjects. As stated in the LHS Student Handbook, "students whose attendance falls below 75% of scheduled class time will receive an 'F' for the marking period."

As before, this "F" may be appealed through the Appeals Committee. Extended absences due to sickness or hospitalization, "unusual circumstances," or religious holidays are exempt.

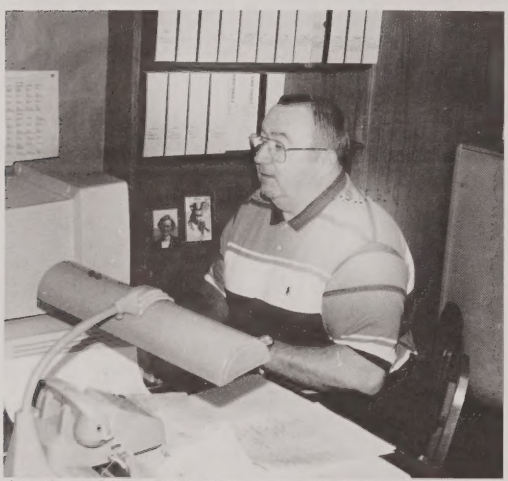
Another part of the policy is the existence of an attendance block. This is the student's first block of the day. The teacher must hand in the attendance cards before the end of the block. Absences are entered into the computer by the house secretaries, and the resulting list becomes the master attendance list for the day. Students arriving late must report to their house secretaries. However, attendance will be taken in every scheduled period of the day.

Disciplinary actions for unexcused absences have also changed. An unexcused absence does not result in a detention, as in the past. Now, three unexcused absences at any time during the year result in a loss of "one academic credit towards graduation."

Although the standard for an absence-related detention has been changed, Attendance Officer Frank Walker said, "House Administrators still retain their detention prerogative in terms of abuse and misconduct."

Calling home immediately involves parents in attendance issues. When a student has an unexcused absence, Walker calls the home of the student to reach the parent. He reports the absence and relates the process by which the student can clear up the situation, if there has been a mistake. He explains, "I try to make my home calls friendly, factual, and fast, although some may argue about the fast part!"

Walker feels that parents are responding positively, because they are "very conscientious and detail-oriented." There has been a marked decrease in the number of unexcused absences, he notes. "The 1996-1997 Attendance Policy represents a culture change for students, parents, and the community in general," comments Walker.



Attendance Officer Frank Walker enters the daily absences into his computer.

-photo by Mike Chen

News Briefs

FRESHMEN ELECTED

The newly elected freshmen have filled the open seats in the student government. Alex Sherman is freshman class president and Jackie Fields is freshman Vice-President. The seven freshman senators are Courtney Benson, Meredith Carlisle, Dan Chamberlain, Aaron Edelstein, Katherine Merseth, Liz Neumann, and Kaytrue Ting.

-Emily Wanderer

NAT'L SMOKEOUT DAY SMOKES OUT SMOKING

On November 21, LHS joined others across the U.S. in the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout. It was a day dedicated to curbing tobacco and nicotine use. It featured a variety of events, including a smoking cessation program for students. A Quik Quit Clinic offered advice for smokers and nonsmokers.

-Katherine Rose

STUDENTS AWARDED FOR PROMOTING DIVERSITY

The American Association of University Women honored Aaron Adler, Josh Coffin, Larry Liff, Tim Sackton, and Andrew Rabkin for promoting religious diversity through an editorial they wrote for the *Minuteman*. The award recognized the students for taking a stand against the creche displayed each year on the Battle Green.

-Andrew Rabkin

Net Day Links School, Community to Internet

by Evan Harris

Lexington was one of the sites of Massachusetts' first Net Day, on October 26. Sponsored by Mass Networks, an organization comprised of leaders in the business and education communities, Net Day's mission was to familiarize citizens with the Internet. It aimed to present information about the Internet's contents, its internal mechanisms, and methods of access.

The primary Lexington Net Day site was the Maria Hastings School gym, where Internet vendors, hardware and software providers, and educators displayed their wares and provided information about all aspects of the Internet. Ideally, those who attended the Net Day expo at Hastings returned home familiar with the Internet.

At Lexington High School, preparations for Net Day included the completion of the Science Building's Internet access wiring. The high school wiring effort was coordinated by Steve Ellis, co-director of Network and Data Services at LHS.

The completion of the wiring will place virtually every science classroom on-line.

Biology teacher Scott Carpenter enthusiastically endorsed this final step: "Just think: the entire world of the Internet is just on the other side of that wall. Once we go on-line, students will be able to get data from thousands of sources throughout the world without having to leave this room!"

"Once we go on-line, students will be able to get data from thousands of sources throughout the world without having to leave the room!"

-Biology teacher Scott Carpenter

Other teachers hope to use the Internet to their advantage as well. Spanish teacher Mary Alice Samii's students will be logging on to communicate with other Spanish-speaking students throughout the world.

Computer guru Carpenter has already created a web site for his biology class, at which students can look up previous assignments, read class notes, and leave messages.

Many believe Lexington is several steps ahead of other communities in terms of school Internet access. Lexington Technology Coordinator Shelley Chamberlain noted that "most other towns are using Net Day just to begin wiring their classroom connections. We are using the Connection Fair at Hastings to encourage parents and students who want to make that connection from home." She also pointed out that Lexington schools obtained town funding for Internet connections, whereas other communities could not.

LHS provides e-mail accounts that are accessible through terminals in the Professional Library and the Computer Center.

Japanese Educators Tour Lexington School System

by Ram Gowda

Trading educational methods with their Lexington counterparts, 21 Japanese teachers broke cultural barriers when they toured Lexington's school system. Teachers hoped to profit by learning more about Japanese teaching techniques. Japan's highly successful educational system is internationally recognized as a model for the rest of the world.

At LHS' welcoming ceremony, Curriculum Coordinator Diane Tabor greeted the visiting teachers. She told them, "We want to know your system, because of your reputation for excellence, and since we're always being compared to you."

Lexington was one of only eight U.S. schools that was chosen to participate in the California exchange program.

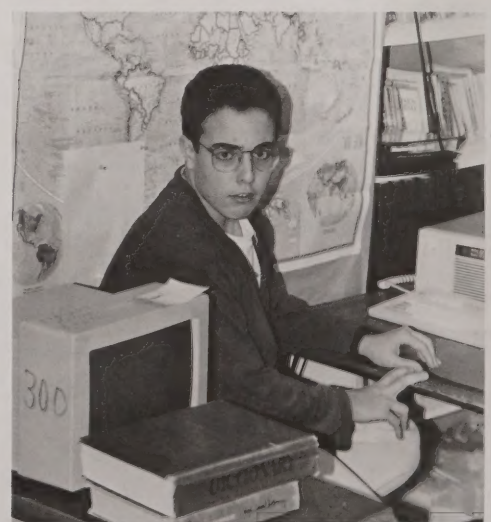
LHS Principal Philip Lanoue, Hastings Elementary Principal Rick Rogers, Fine Arts Coordinator Walter Pavisaris, Personnel Coordinator David Wilson, and Business Coordinator Sandy Guryan all spoke on the workings of the Lexington school system. Noriko Kinjo translated their words into Japanese.

"We want to know your system, because of your reputation for excellence."

-Curriculum Coordinator Diane Tabor

Next, the visitors traveled to Fiske, Lexington High School, Clarke, and Diamond. The teachers quickly noticed obvious differences in the size, organization, and layout of the schools as compared to those of their own country. They observed that unlike designs found in Japan, Lexington schools have a more college-like open layout. Sakaie Murakawa, one of the Japanese educators, noted, "The buildings here are very large and spaced apart. In Japan, the buildings are connected."

At the end of the tour, the delegation presented Lanoue with an ornate traditional Japanese fan, which he said would be placed "in a very special place."



Yearbook editor-in-chief Carl Tortola is befuddled by the very thought of using a computer.

-photo by Dan Myung

Sophomore Taylor Carroll swings on her swing in "A Country Wedding." The play ran from November 14 through 16.

-photo by Dan Myung

LHS Academic Teams Overwhelm Competition

by Jason LeeKeenan

While the daily morning announcements often highlight Lexington High School's success in sports, the recent accomplishments of the LHS math team and science team, and the formation of the academic decathlon team portend another triumphant year for academics at LHS.

After winning first place in the Massachusetts Mathematics League and second place in the State and New England Math meets last year, it is no surprise that the LHS math team has already begun to obliterate local competition.

Lexington already holds a tight second place in the Massachusetts Math League, behind perpetual nemesis Canton. It does hold an astounding first place in the Greater Boston Mathematics League (GBML). With perfect scores from Yuen-Jong Liu, Peter Litwack, Ken Weinstein, and Jason LeeKeenan, the Lexington team scored a rare 91 out of 100 possible points at the GBML competition.

"All we wanted was a chance. We didn't ask for any special favors. Just a chance."

-Math team coach Saleh Rahman

At the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Mathematics Competition, the Lexington team seized another first place finish, with Liu earning the highest individual score and a $3000 scholarship to WPI. Despite Lexington's victory, subterfuge and a flagitious conspiracy against Lexington brought intrigue to the competition. After winning four or five consecutive WPI championships, Lexington was suspiciously uninvited to the competition last year. While the WPI officials claim that Lexington's registration was "lost in the mail," math team coach Saleh Rahman insists that "Lexington never received a registration packet." Since Lexington's registration was not submitted, the officials cunningly denied the math team participation in the meet. "All we wanted was a chance," explained Rahman. "We didn't ask for any special favors. Just a chance."

To ensure that chance, this year Rahman personally drove to WPI to register the math team, forcing officials to abandon their shallow scheme. Accordingly, Lexington annihilated the competition, with especially strong performances from Liu and Litwack.

In the Jeopardy-style math competition at UMass/Lowell, the team of Liu, Litwack, Weinstein, and LeeKeenan again swept the competition, winning $2000 in annually renewable scholarships to UMass/Lowell.

Meanwhile, the LHS science team has also begun to assert Lexington's characteristic academic aggressiveness. After winning first place at the Science Olympiad State Competition, and placing in the top 20 at the national competition in Atlanta, team captains Dave Schwartz and Dave Kong are preparing the team for a hopeful trip to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the preannounced location of the 1997 National Science Olympiad Competition.

Lexington has already won the first regional Science Olympiad meet, with strong performances from the participants in the Freshman Bowl, Bottle Rocket, and Straw Building events.

While the past success of the math and science teams bodes well for this year's competitions, the Academic Decathlon team has a fresh start. Led by chemistry teacher Judith Masselam, the team is preparing for a regional meet in late November. The competition is a series of multiple-choice tests on a broad scope of topics, ranging from the "Information Revolution" to the Fine Arts to *Julius Caesar* to Micro and Macroeconomics. The team consists of nine people, with people of differing GPAs. This ensures a mixed team. Team captains Dan Shiau and Tim Dunn are eager to find students who are well versed in many subject areas, as well as those who have varying GPAs. Shiau does not expect Lexington "to move mountains," as this is the first year of competition, but hopes that this year will bode well for "future victories."

If the achievements of the science team and math team are any "sine" of the times, Lexington should have a full and exciting year demolishing its opponents.

"A Country Wedding" Premieres at LHS

by Aaron Bonner-Jackson

It was a typical wedding: a statue, a big tree, and lots of booze. This was the scene at the world premiere of Denise Bonal's "A Country Wedding," performed by the Lexington High School Drama Department on November 14-16.

Under the watchful eye of director Steven Bogart, "A Country Wedding" took shape. Wedding guests talked, laughed, cried, ate, and drank on a simple, ash-colored set, featuring a massive tree that played a part in many scenes of the play. There was an excellent balance of serious and comedic scenes, giving the play a marked aura of realism.

The main focus, however, is not on the bride and groom themselves, as one would expect. Instead, the play centers on the guests at the wedding and their interactions. Old friends meet up, while ex-lovers have confrontations and misunderstandings. Angry mothers pursue their children; friends reminisce, sometimes inaccurately, about "times gone by." Secrets are revealed and stories are shared--stories that usually cross paths with the stories of other wedding guests.

"This play definitely did not lack in talent," commented senior Amy Meek. With a solid group of students from all grades, this statement certainly is true. Especially memorable performances were given by Summer McKean (Angela), Hester Young (Benedicte), Adam Mitropolous and Oliver Sellers-Garcia (the Geezers), and Taylor Carroll, Cristina Chapman, and Jessie Weisstein (the three girls). For lack of space, it must be noted that all cast members gave unforgettable performances of extremely high caliber for high school students.

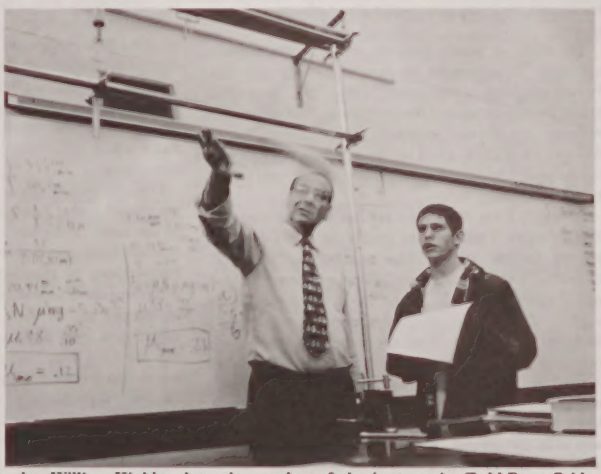
The overall feeling of "A Country Wedding" is that of a dream, a recollection of events that occurred years ago. As Bonal writes, "...a wedding as seen through the memory, or nostalgically." It is a wedding from the point of view of a guest who remained glued to the buffet table, observing the other guests and giving short insights into the lives of many different people. It is the sheer number of characters in "A Country Wedding" who look familiar to us that makes it so enjoyable, and in many cases, so comical.

"The part where the three girls discussed abused mothers touched me. I wanted to cry."

-Senior Emily Vacanti

The cast seemed to have no problem with the number of characters in "Wedding." They became most involved in the play itself. "The part where the three girls discusses abused mothers touched me. I wanted to cry," said senior Emily Vacanti. Sophomore Rachel Vogelzang concurred: "A lot of the scenes in the three girls are in, and the conversations, they have really strike me because they seem so real."

However, some found the play confusing. "I just didn't get it," said freshman Becky Kraley. "There were a lot of characters. It was difficult to understand." Senior Jessica Carlisle disagreed. "It was a wedding. The play provides a window into the lives of the guests. Am I the only one who gets it?"



Teacher William Hinkle relates the wonders of physics to senior Todd Rosenfield while watching a model plane whiz by.

-photo by David Liu

Need help with your essays?

Come to the Writing Workshop!

The Writing Workshop is located in the library, in the room behind the photocopying machine.

Student IDs Don't Identify

As a recent *Musket* features article reported, the Lexington High School student body is now fully ID-endowed. For the first time in approximately five years, LHS has issued student picture identification cards. Today's driver's-license-deprived underclassmen need not shake in fear when SAT proctors, airline officials, MBTA staff, Via Lago employees, librarians, and potential employers demand proof of identity. Students can return passports, birth certificates and guidance office descriptions to the musty boxes in their attics. Instead, they can whip out their shiny, brand spanking new Lexington High School student ID cards.

Or maybe not. Nationally and internationally, the rule remains that no form of identification is valid unless it bears the signature of the holder. As all United States passports proclaim, ID is "not valid until signed." Even the Lexington police doubt that such identification is valid. Customs officials have been known to spend over 10 minutes harassing *Musket* editorials editors who have neglected to sign their passports before leaving the country. Both driver's permits and driver's licenses are also invalid without signatures. It's not just the important stuff that requires an illegible scrawl, either; even CPR certification cards aren't "real" until they're signed.

The cards are missing more than a simple signature; they lack a good deal of vital information. Nowhere do they list student ID number, address, telephone number, date of birth, height, weight, social security number, or gender. Lack of space doesn't seem to have been the cause of this omission; these cards dutifully cover over a quarter of the available space with useless information about LHS.

"The cards are missing more than a simple signature; they lack a good deal of vital information. Nowhere do they list student ID number, address, telephone number, date of birth, height, weight..."

Police officers and immigration officials couldn't care less about the school's address. They want confirmation of identity, not irrelevant information about educational institutions.

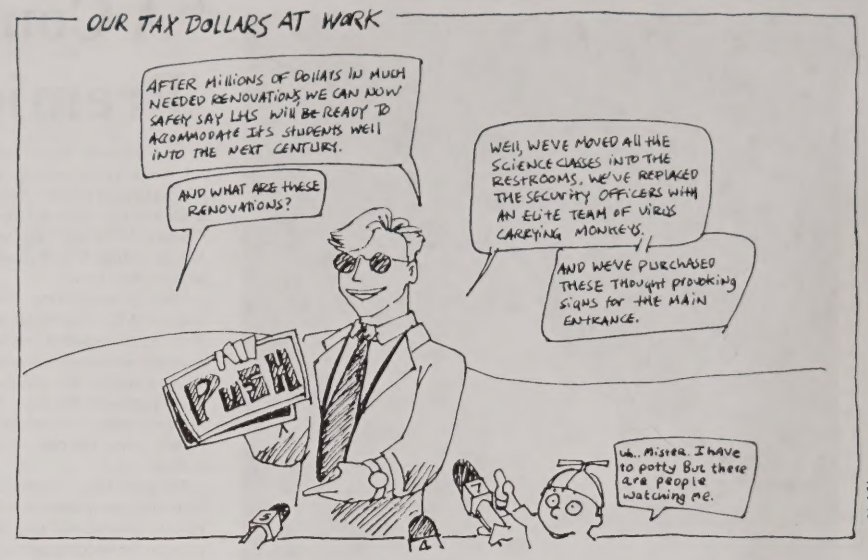
The cards are poorly designed and, in some respects, inaccurate. To begin with, the expiration date is not clear. My card proclaims in bold letters "1996-1998," but fails to explain the significance of these numbers. Not only is this confusing, but it's also incorrect: for the second half of 1997 and all of 1998, I will not be a student at Lexington High School. The exact expiration date of each card should be stated explicitly.

As happy I am that I have not yet been reduced to a string of digits, I still have to protest the card's assertion that my student identification number is "Carey E. Schwaber." I suppose that I am fortunate, however, to have my full name on the card. Some cards do not include the student's official name. Instead, they have the student's nickname. Furthermore, I am not in the 97th grade; that's my year of graduation, thank you very much. The student ID cards are riddled with mistakes, and they desperately need proofreading of the information already present. Moreover, the type of information included on the card needs to be reevaluated. At present, the student IDs are an ineffective and inessential form of identification.

What's more, the pictures are downright ugly. They are, in the words of Senior Jessica Carlisle, "nausea-inspiring." As Senior David Ly commented, "Everybody's face looks brown." Pictures taken in the gym are almost never good, but these are just plain scary. Perhaps underclassmen may have to suffer such horrors as pasty complexions, forced smiles, and horrid backgrounds, but why should seniors? Most seniors paid a good deal of money for decent-looking senior portraits; Burlington Studios should have used these for the senior class' set of identification cards.

Why are the student ID cards so riddled with errors and inadequacies? In the words of Principal Philip Lanoue, anything more would have been "tough to coordinate." This year's attempt was a start, but there is much room for improvement. If Lexington High School is going to make the effort to issue student IDs, it should do so as well as it can.

-Carey Schwaber


OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK
AFTER MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN MUCH NEEDED RENOVATIONS WE CAN NOW SAFELY SAY LHS WILL BE READY TO ACCOMMODATE IT'S STUDENTS WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.
AND WHAT ARE THESE RENOVATIONS?
WELL, WE'VE MOVED ALL THE SCIENCE CLASSES INTO THE RESTROOMS. WE'VE REPLACED THE SECURITY OFFICERS WITH AN ELITE TEAM OF VIRUS CARRYING MONKEYS.
AND WE'VE PURCHASED THESE THOUGHT PROVOKING SIGNS FOR THE MAIN ENTRANCE.
PUSH
Um.. Mister. I have to potty But there are people watching me.

Attendance Policy Aimed At the Wrong Students

Recently, the school administration voted unanimously to extend the English department's experimental attendance policy across the board to all other school subjects. According to the Student/Parent Handbook, "students whose attendance falls below 75% of scheduled class time will receive an 'F' for the marking period." Those who choose to appeal the grade must follow a strict appeals process. If they fail to do so, the grade remains on the report card.

On the surface, this seems like an ideal policy. After all, learning occurs in the classroom. Kids who miss classes also miss important class discussions. They do not contribute their ideas to the discussions, nor do they benefit from the ideas generated in the discussions. Frequent absences wreak havoc with grades, because of missing assignments, quizzes, and tests. Many students skip class to avoid taking tests and quizzes and passing in assignments on time on purpose. Shouldn't students be expected to attend their classes and adhere to the same deadlines that their classmates must stick to? All in all, the policy is aimed at and punishes only those miscreants who are constantly skipping class in quest of "fun stuff to do." Right? Wrong. The new attendance policy suffers from serious flaws which will render it ineffective, if not downright detrimental.

First, the policy fails to take into account the diversity of the student body. Not every student can be in school 75% of the time. Activities such as debate or Model United Nations force participants to leave school frequently for competitions or tournaments. Neglecting classes isn't something these kids enjoy doing. Traveling happens to be an integral part of those activities. They maintain their schoolwork while participating in extracurricular activities that require a large time commitment. Successful athletic teams also require members to leave school early and miss classes. Unfortunately, the policy outlined in the LHS Student/Parent Handbook fails to take such possibilities into consideration. Through no fault of their own, these hardworking scholars are immediately sentenced to receive a failing grade.

Second, the appeals process takes much too long to complete. Let's say that a senior "fails" a class early in the quarter. He is allowed to appeal only on the fifth day after the end of the term. What if this student wanted to apply to colleges early? No academic institution would look upon an "F" favorably, regardless of the circumstances. Grades such as those would be easily misinterpreted, with college admissions officers believing that the student cannot handle the work in the class. Besides time constraints, the process is also unduly complicated. Appeal applicants must deal with a variety of individuals and groups. This only serves to draw out an already tedious process.

Finally, the policy has never been very successful. Most people have been able to appeal their way out of the "F." Obviously, these are kids who never should have been marked down in the first place.

Why, then, do we have this policy? The sensible thing would be to get rid of it altogether. Instead of the immediate "F," it would make more sense for the house masters to arrange an interview with the student in question. This would give the administration a chance to air their concerns as well as an opportunity for the child to explain extenuating circumstances. The administrator would get the opportunity to stress the importance of attending class, while the student would be able to explain the absences. Both sides would get the opportunity to communicate their positions. Most importantly, it would save everyone time. All of us are guilty of wasting our precious hours. Why compound this bad habit with a useless attendance policy?

-Anagha Nadkarni

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Battle Green Tours: Not Community Service

Imagine Joe. He is, in the words of Mrs. Maier, "a good doobie." Each weekend he spends four hours at a local soup kitchen, helping to cook a meal, serve it, and clean up afterwards. He does this without accepting any pay, or asking for any. Joe is a perfect example of everything that the LHS community service policy tries to achieve.

Tourguides on the Battle Green are not like Joe. Though a few tourguides decline payment, most LHS students who act as tourguides are all-too-willing to pass their tricorn around for tips. In between their frisbee games and their lolling about on the Green, tourguides can make more than $50 doing little more than giving the occasional tour and spending the rest of their time relaxing.

Community service hours are not supposed to be racked up as a secondary benefit of some other job.

The LHS community service policy states that no activity should be accepted for community service credit if it involves being "paid." Note that this policy does not say "a paycheck," but rather simply says "paid": the point of the community service policy is that it should be volunteer work for which no compensation is received. There will be tourguides regardless of whether LHS offers community service for it or not. Tourguiding is still a lucrative job that is relatively easy and usually pays well. It is also a job with prestige, and a job that most students would love to be able to put on their college applications.

Community service hours are not supposed to be racked up as a secondary benefit of some other job. Tourguides can easily gain hundreds of hours of community service, but most of those hours are spent waiting on the Green and doing nothing in particular to help the community, not giving tours. Some tourguides also brag about being able to "fake" hours, since often their community service slips are pre-signed before they write the number of hours they have spent tourguiding. Is this the right attitude for people who are supposed to be serving the community?

Having tourguides on the Green is, of course, a vitally important part of Lexington. It is also important that these tourguides be Lexington's youth, for each generation needs to learn of what happened before. The Battle Green is part of our shared history: it is where are forefathers fought oppression and declared themselves for freedom, justice, and liberty. They did not, however, declare themselves for laziness and frisbee-throwing. Tourguiding-for-money seems a poor way to honor those who died on the Green.

It is important to point out that there are a few LHS Battle Green tourguides who do not accept tips, and only count those hours that they spend touring toward their community service credit. Such students should be commended, and they should be proud that they remember what their classmates often forget: service is service, not a free ride.

Lexington needs its tourguides, but its tourguides do not need money. Either tourguides should receive money and no community service credit, or community service credit and no money. To have both is to have their cake and eat it, too. And that, it seems, is grossly unfair to every Joe who volunteers at a soup kitchen.

-Andrew Rabkin

Letters to the Editor

LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS ALREADY BEGUN

I would like to commend Anagha Nadkarni for her interest in improving LHS's library collection and services. It is edifying to see students taking the time and expending the effort necessary to improve library use and support for the curriculum. Some of the areas spotlighted in the editorial have been concerns that the library staff are already working to remedy. Presently, we have open order accounts with a number of book suppliers, which enable us to order at any time during the year. In the past, we were hampered by system-wide ordering constraints. We are also in the process of developing a system to evaluate the collection and upgrade areas that are found to be weak or outdated. In addition, through the generous support of the Lexington PTSA, we are improving the utility and physical appearance of the Library Media Center.

Unfortunately, much of the reported factual information in the article is incorrect. The library has six Macs and four IBMs for student use. Four of these stations were given to the library. The library's budget for books and periodicals is more than the reported $5,000. Ordering books is done in a variety of ways, but the primary sources of new materials are journals that provide reviews of books and other media. This is a very complex process that weighs current needs with collection development and budgetary constraints. Books are expensive and many reference books, such as The Dictionary of Scientific Biography, cost thousands of dollars.

The goal of the LHS Library Media Center is to support the curriculum by providing students and faculty with information sources and literature. We purchase materials to meet informational needs No high school library can have all materials available every subject, but it can provide students with access to ways of locating this information. LHS has a fine collection of books and periodicals, and provides access to Cary, Boston Public, Harvard, and MIT library catalogs. The library might need some fine-tuning, but the process has already begun. Students must continue to be advocates, but must also take the time to ask the questions that will help them use their library more effectively.

-Susan Lum

THE EDITORS' REPLY:

The *Musket* encourages the efforts to improve the LMC, and wishes to call attention to a few important points:

• The Internet is not superior to the LMC's print collection.

Despite its ease of use and flashy presentation, the Internet remains an inferior source of information for most topics. Much of the information on the Internet is corporate-sponsored, unverifiable, or simply worthless. The Internet has no editors. Anyone who has access to a computer can post information on the Internet, and there are very few ways of verifying an article's legitimacy. Furthermore, even the best Internet search engine will still bring back far too many "hits" to be worthwhile, and most of the webpages found will consist of a mere mention of the topic searched for, not the in-depth analysis that print sources offer. All print sources at the LMC have editors. This information has been verified and deemed worthwhile by a professional or qualified individual.

It has become all-too-common for teachers, with the librarians' encouragement, to use the Internet as a first resource, rather than last. Few teachers encourage their students to discriminate between what is good information on the Internet and what is poor, even incorrect information. If the LMC is going to encourage use of the Internet as a primary resource, then it must also teach how to determine if information found on the Internet is worthwhile, and how to verify such information using the LMC's print collection.

• The print collection is in serious need of immediate improvement.

It has always been somewhat amusing that the LMC does not have a biography of Lenin written after the fall of the Soviet Union, but it does have not one, not two, but three copies of *Yes, I Can!*, the autobiography of Sammy Davis, Jr. Even the most wet-behind-the-ears freshman can tell which of those gentlemen has had more effect on history. The student body and faculty should be involved in determining the LMC's weaknesses. They will be the ones using the LMC's resources, and they will best know what types of books they need.

It is also interesting that despite the Life Skills program's constant warning against the traditional media images of what is "attractive" and "unattractive," the LMC still subscribes to magazines such as *Glamour.* And just how many computer magazines does one library need to subscribe to? These money currently spent on these magazines would be better spent on literary journals, foreign language magazines, or some other periodical which applies more directly to what is taught at LHS.

Again, the *Musket* commends the efforts to improve the LMC. The *Musket* does believe, however, that many of the changes can come more quickly than perhaps the librarians believe, for those changes are changes in attitude, not in the LMC's collection. With the new plans for a revised LHS now released, the LMC, along with the rest of the LHS community, will be able to re-examine its needs and goals.

Dave and Dave

We know you've walked by it before, perhaps giving it a brief glance before shrugging your shoulders in confusion and then stumbling off to your next class. It sits quietly and unassumingly upon the wall in the main hall, with no exterior hints as to the true power it possesses. Yes folks, we're talking about the proposed architectural changes for the future of our school.

Now, as nice as these proposals are, Dave and I have come up with a list of our own which we feel more accurately reflects the needs of the student body, i.e., us.

Proposal #1

How many times a day do you actually go into the main office? With its convenient location at the center of campus, only one institution could be considered as its replacement: a huge centralized bathroom. As Virgil said in Dante's *Inferno,* "when ya gotta go, ya gotta go," or like Faulkner said in *Absalom Absalom and More Absalom,* "look at the size of that urinal puck!" Yes, we want urinals, urinals, and more urinals.

Proposal #2

Food Court. Forget those ridiculous pizza lines in C-Caf: we're talkin' a huge, commercial, mall-style food-nirvana. The senior quad will be roofed over, and hundreds of restaurants will be invited to set up shop and hawk their wares. Goodbye Otis Spunkmeyer, hello Roy Rogers.

Proposal #3

Mad about that D- on your English paper? Feel like letting out that frustration without flogging someone with a wet noodle? Then visit the bumper cars in C-Caf. Keeping in tune with the GAP's seasonal color schemes, the bumper cars will be lavishly adorned with fashionable hues such as "peach," "mustard," or "macaroni casserole." When we questioned our resident casserole connoisseur Eric "don't hate me because I'm beautiful" Rosenbaum, about the bumper cars, he replied thusly: "Nothing beats a good macaroni casserole." Yes, the bumper cars too will be a fun, stylish, and safe outlet for student aggression (note to selves: use bumper cars to wreak bloody vengeance upon our unsuspecting enemies).

Proposal #4

You know those cool above-ground swimming pools you can buy? Well, who uses J-Caf for much of anything anyways?

Proposal #5

Imagine a tropical paradise replete with golden sands, azure water and the heady floral scent of mango blossoms. A soft sea breeze tickles your fancy as you sit upon a golden throne, while exotic half-naked natives massage you and shout, "You are the messiah! You are the messiah!" Now imagine the same scene without the sands, water, sea breeze, throne, or exotic half-naked natives, and replace them with . . . a goat. "Baaaaaa," says the goat, cheerfully welcoming you to the H-Caf Petting Zoo. Sheep, llamas, flying squirrels, leeches, and velociraptors will make all you girls and boys "ooh" and "ah" in orgasmic delight as their sheer cuteness overpowers you.

Proposal #6

Taking our cue from "Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome," we have Tina Turner become supreme empress of LHS. Hah! That'd be ridiculous; instead, we'll turn the field house into the **ARENA OF DEATH**. The field house will be adorned with all manner of deadly weaponry: chain saws, swords, pruning shears, Tupperware, etc. If you have attendance problems, instead of reporting to detention, you'll simply engage in personal combat with your building administrator. For all you with J-House homerooms, watch out: Mr. Capezza has a nasty left hook.

After consulting several faculty members about necessary architectural changes, biology teacher and T.V. evangelist Scott Carpenter summed up the prevailing faculty opinion: "a food court? What else would anyone need besides a food court?"

-Dave and Dave

Correction:

In the *Musket*'s October issue, math teacher Gary Simon was erroneously listed as the Coordinator of Education Technology for Grades 6-12. He is the head of the LHS Math Department.

New Teacher, Librarians Welcomed to School

by Jessica Kaplan and Caitlin Rollins

In the first teacher exchange between Lexington High School and a school in Beijing, China, LHS temporarily added Zhou Xin to its teaching staff. In return, the Beijing school received Ms. Zimmerman, a world history teacher.

During her year in our school system, Zhou Xin will be meeting with students from throughout Lexington. She will teach English as a second language (ESL) and will privately tutor recent student immigrants in all subjects. She finds her job very important because the kids she tutors are eager to learn, but they have trouble blending into the American school system. She enjoys serving as a bridge between their past and future education.

One of the major differences that Zhou Xin noticed between the Chinese and American schools was the teacher/student relationship. Teachers are more respected in China. For example, it is considered an honor to carry a teacher's books and overhead equipment to class. Also, the students take care of their own classroom, ensuring that it is adequately prepared for the teacher before he or she arrives. In addition, the students clean their teacher's office and their own classrooms.

In China, the students are required to have better discipline. There are at least 50 students per classroom. All must sit silently and listen to the teacher lecture. If one student is not paying attention, the teacher can easily notice. Zhou Xin is very enthusiastic about teaching in the United States.

The History Department isn't the only one with newcomers. If you've noticed shorter lines and more student assistance in the library media center this year, it is partly due to our two new librarians, Susan Lum and Marge Saradjian.

Susan Lum comes to LHS from Cambridge Rindge and Latin, where she worked for fifteen years before deciding she needed a change of pace. She chose Lexington because of the strong support offered to the libraries. While here, she hopes to teach students how to intelligently locate information. Lum and her husband enjoy traveling in search of new books for the East Asian Library, where Mr. Lum works. Their travels include visits to Burma, Tibet, and Vietnam.

Students of past years may already know Ms. Saradjian. Though she has worked at the library for nine years as an aide, this is her first year with the title of librarian. She feels that the library is a home for books of school assignments and pleasurable reading. Accordingly, her motto states, "For reading and relaxation, the library is the way to go."

Saradjian believes that an important quality for a library is an abundance of primary resources. In fact, she is one! During the Cold War, she went behind the Iron Curtain, and during the Civil Rights Movement, she was in the South. While she is not traveling or working in the library, she enjoys outdoor activities and—you guessed it, reading!

Librarians Marge Saradjian and Susan Lum take a break from shelving to smile for the camera.

-photo by Jay Premack

Popularity of Attachés Overwhelming

by Ashwini Nadkarni

Next time you're walking down the hall, take a good look at all the people scurrying past you. What are they toting their books in? Backpacks? Not this year! It looks like the "bridge to the 21st century" will be built with discarded attachés from the 1996-1997 school year. The vote is in: attachés are sizzling at LHS. The majority of the student population has decided to simultaneously make an attempt to be original, buying these bags in various sizes, colors, and brands of hideousness.

Besides sight pollution, the attaché has also caused much controversy among students. Animosity has risen over who originally introduced the synthetic fibered beast to LHS. Disturbingly, everyone seems to want to stake a claim on its origin. Sophomore Neil Chamberlain is rather vocal on this point: "I say senior Steve McCabe did it. After all, he has been carrying the attaché for the whole time that he's been at the high school, including weekends."

Another point of contention is the proper method of carrying an attaché. Many students have been spotted walking to their classes with their bags slung pretentiously over their shoulders and across their chests, tossing their heads this way and that to produce what senior Kathryn Manz calls "a very poetic and faux angst look." There are also those who carry the attaché hanging off their foreheads, packs banging seductively against the rear. Often these are the students who will come to class with an L.L. Bean imprint on their foreheads. Amateurs be warned: only true attaché masters have the dubious pleasure of pulling this feat off with substantial flair. As smug senior Anagha Nadkarni pronounced rather haughtily, "Attachés are like fine wines. If you don't know the difference between champagne and zinfandel, then go back to your beer."

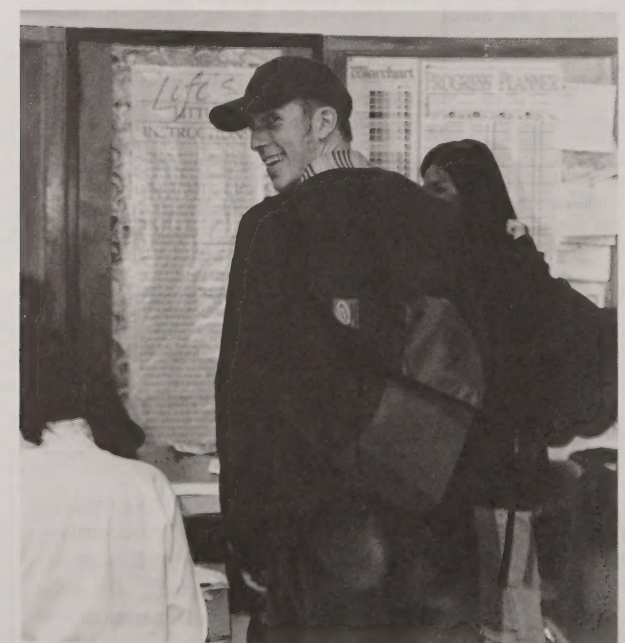
"Attachés are like fine wines. If you don't know the difference between champagne and zinfandel, then go back to your beer."

-Senior Anagha Nadkarni

Further conflict has arisen over whether the creature is to be known as a "college attaché." Sophomore Emily Handlin contests that the bag is "so definitely a Courier," as she points to the little naked man hanging off the side of her "Courier" as evidence. "See, he's a Courier Angel."

Despite the difference of opinion over the previous issues, everyone agrees that the attachés are for artistic effect alone. They should carry nothing more than a few papers or an occasional book. Who wants to carry a lot of books anyways? After all, toting around more than two books in a pack that slams against your body all day would hurt. Besides, anyone with a bulky bag is at risk of becoming a social leper. It's no secret that although we may feign indifference towards the "the bag thing," we are all spiteful gossips, jumping at the opportunity to peck at someone else's fashion sense.

As I see it, the attaché, having no real practical uses, is simply causing an unnatural proliferation of ghastly colored nylon, not to mention a recycling nightmare, in the hallowed halls of LHS. But don't fear, we still have time to rectify our mistakes. Attaché wearers, at the next school pride bonfire, liberate yourselves from these horrendous packs atop your backs. Let us eliminate this unearthly phenomenon!



Senior Tim Calvin shows off his messenger bag for the admiring populace.

-photo by Dan Myung

Helping "Amigos" From Central, Latin America

by Ken Weinstein

What's your idea of summer vacation? For most people, building latrines in Honduras ranks fairly low on the "Top 10 List of Things to Do During the Summer." Four LHS students, however, spent the summer of 1996 helping the needy, through the Amigos program, a public health organization which works to improve conditions in Latin America.

"In all cases, the appreciation of the natives made the hardships worthwhile. They considered [me] a part of their village."

-Senior Caitrin MacDonald

LHS senior Caitrin MacDonald, former LHS senior Rachel Kayce, and the since-graduated duo of Miriam Kasell and Ans DeBrouckere devoted months of preparation to their unique experience. Their adventure began last fall, when the LHS Spanish department advertised the Amigos program in a special assembly.

From November to May, the four students attended weekly one-and-a-half hour training sessions, brushing up on the necessary language skills and learning how to aid the people with whom they would be working.

The Amigos experience varies widely for each participant, ranging from improving community sanitation to administering smallpox vaccinations. While MacDonald built latrines in rural Honduras, Kasell worked in a city in Ecuador. "In all cases," says MacDonald, "the appreciation of the natives made the hardships worthwhile. They considered [me] a part of their village."

However, the program is not for everyone. The participants must be extremely flexible. The quality of living standards varied greatly among the students. Kasell lived in an urban area, with television and other creature comforts, while MacDonald "lived with cockroaches and bats." Nevertheless, all felt that their service to the communities was more important than their living conditions.

So, those of us who spent our summer catching up on sleep or watching the Olympics may want to rethink our priorities. As MacDonald says, "Anybody who does [Amigos] will not regret it in any way. It will change your entire perspective on life."

Field Hockey Ends at State Tournament

by Ben Hart

The girls' field hockey team was shut out by Arlington, 1-0, in the second round of the state tournament game. Considering that there were no starters returning from last season's squad that made it to the semifinals, the girls have nothing to be ashamed of.

The loss ended an extremely productive season in which the Minutemaids sported a 14-4-3 record. Highlights of the season included a tie of powerhouse Watertown, which was the only blemish the Red Raiders had in their otherwise perfect season, and a victory over Woburn, the team that eliminated the 'Maids in last year's tournament.

"We were in the circle, but we just weren't aggressive enough."
-Coach Sandy Curt

As the year progressed, the team's chemistry improved consistently. Play was led by sophomore Kristen Hopwood, juniors Alicia Cabrera and Christina Orf, and senior Kyoko Yamamoto. Nothing was expected of this young and inexperienced team, but they persevered and captured the number six seed in the MIAA North State tournament.

In the opening game against Waltham, Lexington lived up to its ranking. They dominated the entire gain, both offensively and defensively. Alison Stebe and Edie Tan were tremendous, as the Minutemaids cruised to a 2-0 win. Stebe scored the first goal, and then less than a minute later, Christina Orf converted a beautiful pass from Tan to put the icing on the cake. The defense held Waltham to just one shot.

"We're still a little rusty when it comes to playing together," said coach Sandy Curt. "But we have the second [Cabrera] and fourth [Orf] highest goal scorers in the league, who are all-stars, and a goalie [Yamamoto] who is an all-star herself."

The 'Maids were not so lucky in the next game. They ran into third seeded Arlington's defense. Lexington fought hard but could not score a goal. "We were in the circle, but we just weren't aggressive enough," said Curt.

Despite the loss, Lexington will field a team next year that will have most of its players back. If this year is any indication, the Minutemaids will have many more highlights to record.

Senior Gavin McDonough, one of the team's rare uninjured, punts the ball away.

-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios

Injuries Plague Football

by Alex Sherman

In the beginning of the season, Coach Bill Tighe stated that it would be a success if his team would win half of their games. Although this does not sound like a daunting task, the feat has become more and more difficult as injuries have caught up with the Lexington Minutemen. Eleven starters at the beginning of the year are now sitting on the bench in street clothes due to some kind of physical ailment.

Tom Bellini, Anthony Claybourne, Erik Foley, Chuck Howe, Greg Luongo, Morgan McDuffy, Jeff McGaughran, Alex Olsen, Mike Sperandio, Delfo Trombetta, and Kenny Wu are all injured Minutemen. Many would have played substantial roles in the game for Lexington. However, despite this situation, the Minuteman have a 3-4 record and a good chance to finish .500 or better come season's end.

Running back Nick Campisi and Quarterback Sperandio, limping with an injured foot, have sparked the Minutemen's offense, highlighted with a 20-0 win against Stoneham. These two have stepped up and filled the gap for starters McGaughran and Foley, who led the team the first half of the year.

Offensive linemen Kevin DeFrancesco and Morgan McDuffy blocked successfully to give Campisi holes to run through. McDuffy, according to Coach Tighe, has become the main man on the offensive line.

"Morgan McDuffy has really become a rock in our line. If we want to win some more games we are going to need him to recover quickly. I am not sure how long he will be out, as he has a gimpy knee, but we need him to get back into our line-up ASAP."

On defense, co-captains Sean Sealy and Mike Sperandio have routinely record 15 tackles per game, and both have a reputation for punishing hits. Junior Ben Caram and Senior Blaine McGivern have effectively rushed the quarterback as well for Lexington.

However, the Blue, Gold, and White do have trouble with some opponents' quickness. Reading's two star running backs, Delsin Grubbs and Excel Walker, completely dominated the game against the Minutemen, as Reading won 35-14. Speed was also a factor when the Minutemen took on the Melrose Red Raiders. Backup running back Nathan Lucas had no problem breaking through the line, running for 140 yards and two touchdowns as Melrose cruised, 28-7.

"Melrose was too good a team for us. Against Stoneham, we were able to overcome our injuries and win the game. But against Melrose, our backups were just unable to make up the loss," said Tighe. "If we don't get some players on the field who have been sitting on the bench, it's going to be a battle."

The Minutemen staggered to two straight losses against division foes Belmont and Woburn, but rebounded with a come-from-behind 18-16 win against rival Burlington in the annual Thanksgiving day game. Lexington rallied for the winning points on the final drive of the game to finish the season at 4-6.

Girls' Swim Finishes, Boys Jump into Pool

by Jake Kissel and David Ly

After a disappointing 0-2 start, the girls' swim team bounced back to win the rest of their dual meets and placed second in the league meet behind undefeated Belmont. In the process, Lexington avenged a close loss to Reading by finishing ahead of the Rockets.

Following two consecutive league championships, the first time that was done in 15 years, much was expected out of this talented squad. However, the Minutemaids began the season with a false start, suffering losses to Belmont and Reading. With the added loss of depth due to the graduation of key seniors, the 'Maids needed to quickly regroup, and they did just that.

"As the season went on, we got a lot stronger," said coach Donna Cerrato. "These girls know what they want, and they went after it. That's why we were able to bounce back and take second place."

Lexington could not catch up to the powerful Belmont team, which had added many new swimmers to their roster. However, the Minutemaids targeted Reading and came up with a big moral victory.

"We were able to gel as a team and pull ourselves together," said senior tri-captain Carissa Carter, who finished first in both the 50-free and 100-fly in the league.

Carter continued on her swim towards the top by finishing second and eighth in the 50-free and 100-fly, respectively, at sectionals. At states, Carter was six and tenth in her two best events. The season was far from a disappointment, as Kelly Archidiacono, Carter, Stephanie Carter, and Amy Seaquist all went home with a ribbon.

Now that the girls' swimming team is done with their laps, the boys jump into the pool for what promises to be an exciting season. How excited are the Minutemen?

"I guarantee we'll win the Middlesex League this year," said a confident Jesse Herman, one of the four captains.

Lexington has plenty of reasons to feel optimistic. The core of the team is strong, and half the team is made up of experienced seniors. Only two seniors graduated from last year's squad, so the team remains intact. A healthy harvest of freshmen and a good number of strong sophomores and juniors will also add to the arsenal of this talented, powerful, and well-stocked team.

"We have all the events covered," said Bob Maclean, another senior captain. "Our depth is incredible."

This was evident at the team meeting, where 28 boys showed up—an incredible number in the Middlesex League. Big contributions are expected of junior Charles Locke, a swimming prodigy who has been doing his laps at the North Suburban YMCA.

"From what I heard, [Locke's] good enough to win the League by himself," commented senior Andrew Garland.

Locke will need some help, but it looks like he'll get it from this skilled team.

Lexington swims to victory ahead of Reading in the league meet, finishing second in the league.

-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios

Volleyball Blocked at Division 1 Semifinals

by Tanaz Sharifnia

To say that the Lexington varsity volleyball team had a good season this year would be a huge understatement. To say that this year's team was the best in Lexington High School history might be more appropriate.

Although Lexington fell to a strong Haverhill team in the Division 1 North semi-finals, the Minutemaids recorded a perfect 18-0 regular season record and two impressive tournament victories.

The team started off the season with a bang and ended with an undefeated record, the North Shore League Title, and a number one ranking going into the tournament.

The Minutemaids continued their winning ways by defeating Lowell in their first round match. Kills from senior all-star Zorica Grceva and junior all-star Amber Moore contributed to the win. The final points were won by senior all-stars Julie Lum and Lindsay Bonner, with stellar serving and four aces between them. Defensive specialists Emily Sterzin, junior Melanie Figuerio, and senior hitter Carolyn Wengler helped lead the team to victory. The match ended with a dominating three games to zero victory in the best of five series, 15-2, 15-1, and 15-1.

"We needed a strong outing to start us off and to get our confidence level up," said Coach Jane Bergin.

Lawrence would not be so easy. Despite dazzling kills made by Lum and Bonner and great serving by Co-Captain Sterzin, the first game was lost to the opponents, 15-7.

"Lawrence was definitely a better team than Lowell," said Moore. "They hit harder and had a better strategy."

The next game in the best of five series, however, showed Lexington's true colors. With more kills by Grceva, serves by Lum, and digs by senior Kelly Delaney and sophomore Laura Beth Chamberlain, the final score of the game was the same as before, 15-7, but this time the Minutemaids emerged as the victors.

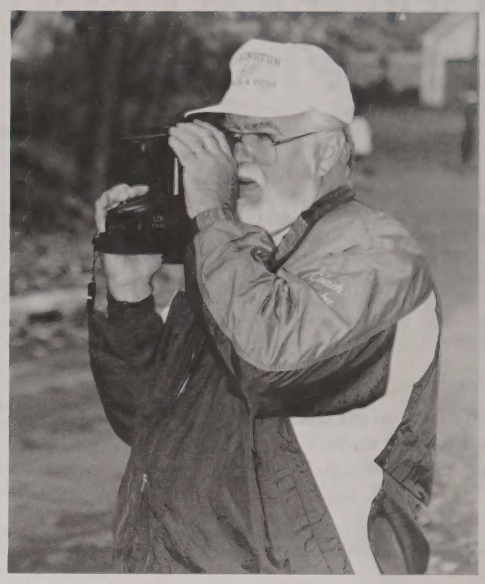
"We talked a lot more [the second game]," Lum explained. "Our ability to communicate better made the difference."

Lexington triumphed over Lawrence in the last two games with some help from senior Beth Coppi's kills and sophomore Marie Jette's digs. The final scores were 15-11 and 15-7.

"It was a hard fought victory," said Bergin after the game. "We had to earn every point. [But] we were very inconsistent. We did not play well, yet we still emerged with a "W." I believe this means we can keep ourselves in these close games which will help us out later in the tournament." As for upcoming matches, "It's going to be real competitive."

Haverhill, the team's next opponent, proved to be too tough, as Lexington lost 3-0. However, all three games had many outstanding kills and good blocking by the Minutemaids. Despite a courageous effort and a phenomenal comeback by Lexington toward the end of the last game, a victory was not achieved. Haverhill won, 15-9, 15-10, and 15-9.

Although the season has come to an end for Lexington, the team had evident success this year and passed all of the preseason expectations.



Girls' cross-country coach Phil Crosby keeps a close watch the progress of the team.

-photo by Dan Myung

Girls' X-Country Ends Season 8-1

by David Ly

An 8-1 record is good enough for any team, but Coach Phil Crosby's girls' cross-country team had their sights set much higher. However, all of that ended when Lexington placed 6th at the EMass meet, just out of the top 5 who compete in all states.

"We were discouraged in that we wanted to go to states," said senior tri-captain Sarah Day. "But it was nevertheless a very good season."

The team started out strong before they faced a revamped Belmont team, who ended up taking the league title.

The Minutemaids went on to beat the rest of their opponents but fell short again to Belmont in the league meet. Lexington was never at full strength at any of those meets.

At the EMass meet, Lexington was without some key runners again, and the girls finished just short of a chance to compete once more.

"Injuries play a central part in any sport," said Coach Phil Crosby. "We gave it our best, and we have the talent to field another strong team that will contend for all-states next year."

A core team of three seniors, tri-captains Kristen Johansson, Ellen Humphrey and Day, led the Minutemaids this year, but it was the emergence of depth that highlighted this season. Sophomores Emily Wanderer and Lindsay Martin were pleasant surprises, as well as junior Kate Waller. Newcomers Maria Stravopolous and Meredith Rommelfanger also made significant contributions to the team's scores.

"The most memorable part of this year has been the tremendous birth of new runners," said Crosby.

"It was a great season this year. Our record was really good and we had a lot of fun throughout the season. I was sorry to see the season end, because the team was so close," says Humphrey.

The future looks bright for a program that, prior to this year, went to all-states for two consecutive years.

Varsity Scoreboard

as of November 25, 1996

Cross Country	
Boys'	9-0
Girls'	8-1
Field Hockey	14-4-3
Football	4-6
Golf	2-6
Soccer	
Boys'	3-9-3
Girls'	4-8-6
Girls' Swimming	7-2
Volleyball	20-1

Boys' X-C Sprints Past Opponents to 9-0 Record

by Aaron Adler

Senior Tim Calvin once said, "The people who think cross country is not a sport have not run cross country."

Yes, Tim, Cross Country is a sport, and the ten runners on varsity are not afraid to voice their opinion on the subject. For the first time since the incredible powerhouse teams of the early '90's, who generated a 66-0 record, the Lexington boys' cross country team stands atop the Middlesex League again with a perfect 9-0 record.

Following a disappointing 6-3 campaign last year, Coach Jeff Glew was extremely optimistic at the start of the season. Early on, however, several top runners from last year could not participate in meets due to injury.

The boys responded by working harder, and it showed at the beginning of the season. The first two meets, a perfect 15-50 defeat of Watertown and an upset victory over Stoneham, set the tone for the rest of the season. The Stoneham win was especially satisfying, since it came down to the 6th and final runner. This meet sent the boys on an unstoppable quest for glory. They cruised to numerous victories over Wakefield, Winchester, Belmont, Melrose, Woburn, Reading, and Burlington.

Lexington's decisive victory at the league meet confirmed their position as League Champs. The Minutemen defeated Stoneham by a larger margin than their previous meeting. In a field of 10 teams, Lexington captured four of the top ten spots at the meet. Aaron Adler was fourth, followed by Gates Joseph in seventh, Will Ronco in ninth, and Tim Calvin in tenth. Seniors Dave Head, Peter Gelling, and Tom Colatosti rounded out the varsity team.

The boys were very optimistic about their chances of reaching the state meet, but injuries and illnesses reduced the top ten to the top six competitors.

During the EMass meet on Nov. 10, the course at Franklin Park looked more like a mud wrestling arena than a race course. While most onlookers sought shelter, the boys ran through torrential rain, cold temperatures, and wind gusts. Lexington did well considering the diminished size of their team and the unfriendly elements. Adler was 22nd, followed closely by Calvin in 29th and Joseph in 35th. Colatosti, Larry Liff, and Alex Pollen also ran well through the muck. The team finished tenth out of thirty teams; however, had the team been complete, the boys would have easily captured second place and a spot in states.

Although the loss was disappointing, the Minutemen have much to look forward to and many emerging stars. One is freshmen Ian Joseph, who has already found a home on the varsity squad.

"I was very fortunate that my first year was so successful," said Joseph. "I hope to run with people of the caliber I ran with this year throughout my career at LHS."

Andreea Mocanu, Alexandra Bailly, and their teammates are on the edges of their seats as they watch the semifinal game against Haverhill, which Lexington lost in a close 3-0 battle.

-photo by Dan Myung